

Categorical Exclusion Determination and Decision Record

for tree planting, radius hand scalping, seedling shading, paper mulching, cut holes and plant, in the Butte Falls Resource Area. OR115-08-13

Description of Proposed Action

This action would occur within the Butte Falls Resource Area of the Medford District BLM (Bureau of Land Management) in fiscal years 2008 or 2009. The objective of the proposed treatments is to reforest with conifer seedlings, areas harvested in timber sale operations or burned by wildfire within the last 6 years.

Planting would be done using hand tools such as a shovel or hoedad. Approximately 750 acres are planned for planting. Radius hand scalping would be done with hand tools, such as a hazel hoe, removing all vegetation for up to 3 feet in radius around planted or existing conifer seedlings on up to 100 acres. Seedling shading or paper mulching would be done on selected areas by hand placing cardboard or webbed shades and paper or plastic mulches around selected seedlings on up to 50 acres. Removing shrub and hardwood sprouts for a 4 foot radius around planting spots (cut holes and plant) with hand tools or chainsaws would be done on up to 200 acres.

Plan Conformance Review

The Bureau of Land Management did not scope this proposal and the public was not involved in its development. This proposal is consistent with policy directed by the following:

- *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (Northwest Forest Plan FSEIS, 1994 and ROD, 1994);
- *Final-Medford District Proposed Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision* (EIS, 1994 and RMP/ROD, 1995);
- *Record of Decision To Remove the Survey and Manage Mitigation Measure Standards and Guidelines from the Bureau of Land Management Resource Management Plans Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (USDI 2007);
- *Medford District Integrated Weed Management Plan Environmental Assessment (1998)* and tiered to the *Northwest Area Noxious Weed Control Program* (EIS, 1985)

The proposed action is in conformance with the direction given for the management of public lands in the Medford District by the Oregon and California Lands Act of 1937, Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, Endangered Species Act of 1973, Clean Water Act of 1987, Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 (as amended 1986 and 1996), Clean Air Act of 1990 (as amended), and Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979.

This proposal is consistent with management direction in the Medford District Resource Management Plan that directs the BLM to conduct silvicultural activities according to management actions/directions summarized in appendix E, Silvicultural Systems, for Matrix and Late Successional Reserves. (Record of Decision USDI 1995, Pgs. 33, 39, 184).

Categorical Exclusion Determination

This proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion as provided in United States Department of the Interior Departmental Manual 516 DM 11.5,C (3) "Seeding or reforestation of timber sales or burn areas where no chaining is done, no pesticides are used, and there is no conversion of timber type or conversion of nonforest to forest land. Specific reforestation activities covered include: seeding and seedling plantings, shading, tubing (browse protection), paper mulching, bud caps, ravel protection, application of non-toxic big game repellent, spot scalping, rodent trapping, fertilization of seed trees, fence construction around out-planting sites, and collection of pollen scions and cones." (4)"Precommercial thinning and brush control using small mechanical devices" (release 5/27/04). Departmental Manual 516 DM2.3 A(3) & Appendix 2 requires that the exceptions must be reviewed for applicability before approval of the use of the above listed categorical exclusion. The exceptions have been reviewed and none of the exceptions to categorical exclusions apply.

Project Design Features

1. Conifer planting would be done on an 8'x8', 10'x10', or 12'x12' spacing.
2. Species planted would consist of Douglas-fir, ponderosa pine, sugar pine, and incense cedar. Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine would make up the majority of the trees planted in similar composition to the original stand.
3. Trees would be hand planted with a shovel or hoedad.
4. Units would be surveyed for Bureau of Land Management Special Status plants prior to treatment. If plants are found within treatment units, appropriate, species by species protective measures would be implemented to accommodate those plants.
5. Paper or plastic mulches, or shade cards may be placed around approximately 300 trees per acre on up to 50 acres.
6. Radius hand scalping would involve removing vegetation, primarily grass, for a 3 foot radius around approximately 300 tree per acre on up to 100 acres with hand tools, such as a hazel hoe.
7. Cut holes and plant would involve removing shrub and hardwood sprouts with hand tools such as a sandvik or with chain saws for a 4 foot radius around planting spots. Planting spots would be on a 12'x12' spacing. Vegetation would be cut and placed along the side of the opening created to allow for planting of a native conifer seedling.
8. All trash and garbage would be picked up and disposed of properly
9. No overnight camping will be allowed at the site or in the surrounding area.

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this project, contact Doug Stewart, Project Leader, at (541)840-2596, or (541)618-2264.

Decision

Based on the attached NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) Categorical Exclusion Review, I have determined the proposed action involves no significant impact to the human environment and no further environmental analysis is required. It is my decision to implement the tree planting, radius hand scalping, paper mulching, shade card application, and cut holes and plant projects as described in the Proposed Action and Project Design Features.

Decision Rationale

The proposed action has been reviewed by Butte Falls Resource Area staff and appropriate Project Design Features, as specified above, will be incorporated into the proposal. Based on the attached NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) Categorical Exclusion Review, I have determined the proposed action involves no significant impact to the human environment and no further environmental analysis is required.

Matthew R. Aspinwall Acting

3-19-2008

Christopher J. McAlear
Field Manager
Butte Falls Resource Area

Date

NEPA Categorical Exclusion Review

Proposed Action:

The objective of the proposed treatments is to reforest with conifer seedlings, areas harvested in timber sale operations or burned by wildfire within the last 6 years

Department of the Interior Manual 516 2.3.A(3) provides for a review of the following criteria for categorical exclusion to determine if exceptions apply to the proposed action based on actions which may:

1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety.

☐ Yes ☒ No

Initial JZ Remarks:

2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resource; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.

☐ Yes ☒ No

Initial JW Remarks:

3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].

☐ Yes ☒ No

Initial JZ Remarks:

4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.

☐ Yes ☒ No

Initial JZ Remarks:

5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.

☐ Yes ☒ No

Initial JZ Remarks:

6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.

☐ Yes ☒ No

Initial SL Remarks:

7. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.

☐ Yes ☒ No

Initial SL Remarks:

8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.

Plants ☐ Yes ☒ No Initial mw Remarks:

Animals ☐ Yes ☒ No Initial LH Remarks:

Fish ☐ Yes ☒ No Initial SL Remarks:

9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.

☐ Yes ☒ No

Initial JW Remarks:

10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).

☐ Yes ☒ No

Initial ju Remarks:

11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).

☐ Yes ☒ No

Initial AK Remarks:

12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or nonnative invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).

☐ Yes ☒ No

Initial mw Remarks:

Administrative Remedy

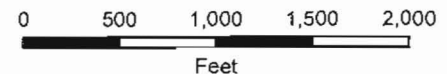
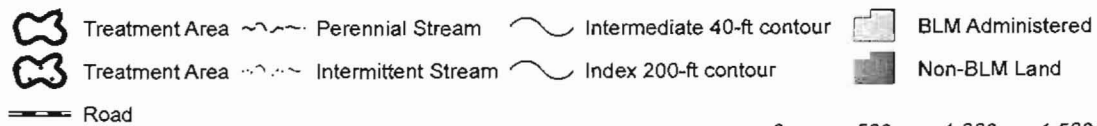
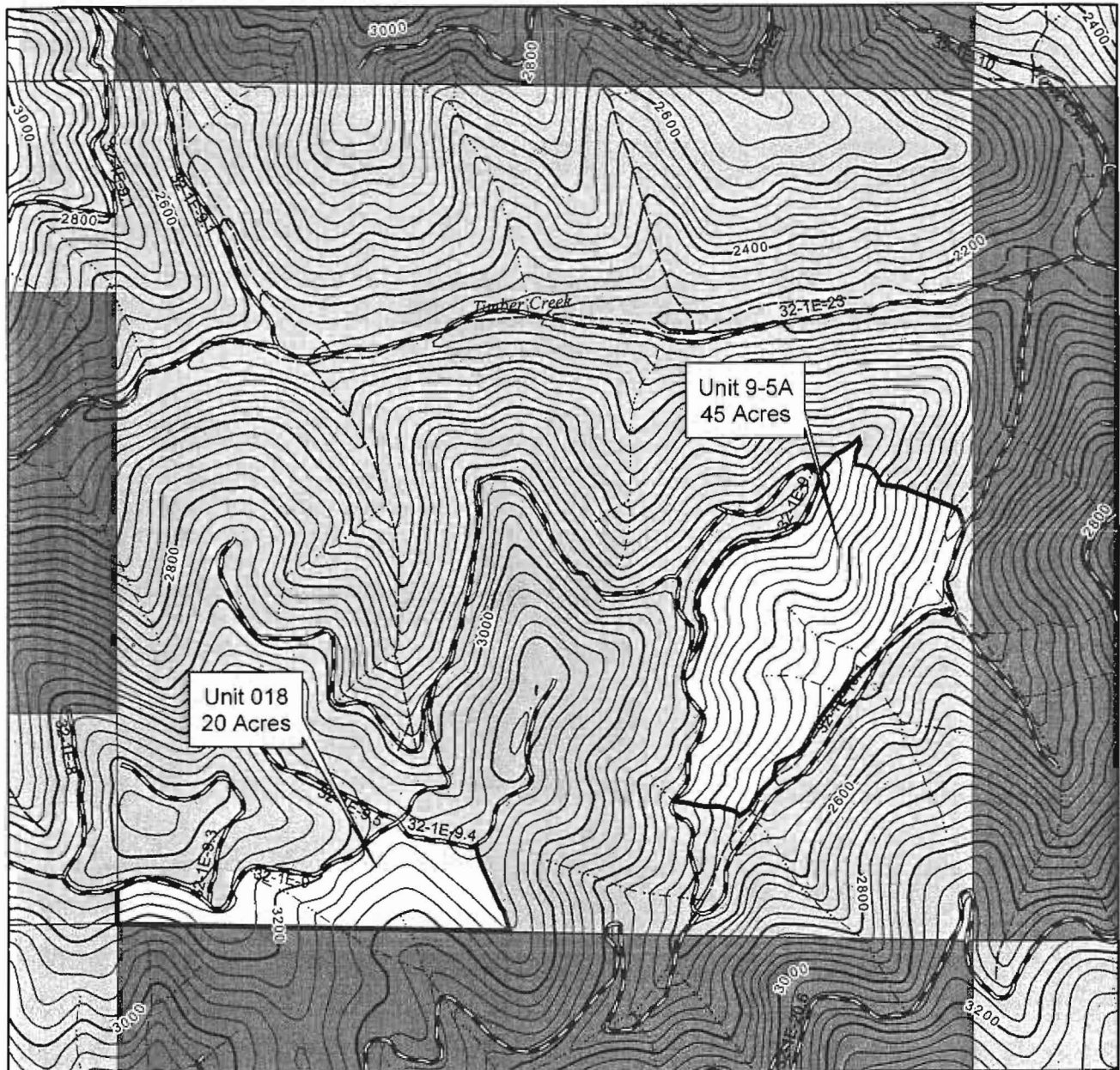
Notice of forest management decision to be made on the action described in this categorical exclusion, will be posted on the District internet website. The action is subject to protest under 43 CFR section 4.450-2. A decision in response to a protest is subject to appeal to the Interior Board of land Appeals under 43 CFR part 4.

Reviewers:

Name	Title	Date	Initials
Williams / Wicks	NEPA Coordinator	3/19/08	JW
Marcia Wineteer	Botanist	2/22/08	mw ✓
Linda Hale	Wildlife Biologist	2/20/08	LH
Steve Liebhardt	Fisheries Biologist	2/8/08	SL
Shawn Simpson	Hydrology	2/12/08	SS
Ken VanEtten	Soil	3/12/08	KV
Leane Mruzik	Fire/Fuels Specialist	2/26/08	LM
John McNeel	Cultural Resources	3/17/08	JM
Ann Ramage	District Archeologist		

RETURN TO: Doug Stewart, Silviculture Project

2008 Butte Falls Tree Planting						
T-R-SEC	Unit	MS Key	Unit Name	Elevation	Acres	Treatment
32-1W-29	016	165489	North Trail	3800-3900	<u>5</u>	Initial Plant
32-1W-29	019	165492	North Trail	3500-3600	<u>2</u>	Initial Plant
32-1W-33	32-6A		North Trail	2400-2600	<u>1</u>	Initial Plant
32-1W-33	32-6B		North Trail	2400-2600	8	Initial Plant
33-1W-31	31-1	165435	South Trail	2300-2500	8	Initial Plant
34-2E-33	33-3	165434	Lower Big Butte	2400-2500	26	Initial Plant per000
TOTAL					57	
32-1E-9	9-5A	161882	Timbered Rock	2400-2800	45	Re-Plant
32-1E-9	018	162245	Timbered Rock	3000-3300	20	Re-Plant
32-1E-17	020	162558	Timbered Rock	2600-3200	29	Re-Plant
32-1E-19	19-13	165042	Timbered Rock	2400-2900	15	Re-Plant
32-1E-19	013	162570	Timbered Rock	2700-3400	21	Re-Plant
32-1E-19	114	164176	Timbered Rock	2400-3000	12	Cut Holes, Replant?
32-1E-29	29-2	163808	Timbered Rock	3400-3600	15	Cut Holes, Replant
32-1E-29	29-6A	160364	Timbered Rock	2600-3400	129	Re-Plant
32-1E-29	29-6B	160366	Timbered Rock	2200-3200	113	Re-Plant
32-1E-33	33-2	160379	Timbered Rock	1700-1800	17	Re-Plant
32-1E-33	33-5	160379	Timbered Rock	1700-1800	10	Re-Plant
32-1W-25	25-8	161726	Timbered Rock	3000-3600	104	Re-Plant
32-1W-25	25-12	161724	Timbered Rock	2800-3200	36	Re-Plant
TOTAL					566	
36-3E-29	29-2	165074	Wasson Fire	4150-4460	28	Re-Plant
36-3E-25	25-2	165493	Beiber Wasson	3000-3200	19	Re-Plant
32-1E-30	001	162283	Timbered Rock	2600-3200	44	Re-Plant
TOTAL					91	
GRAND TOTAL					714	



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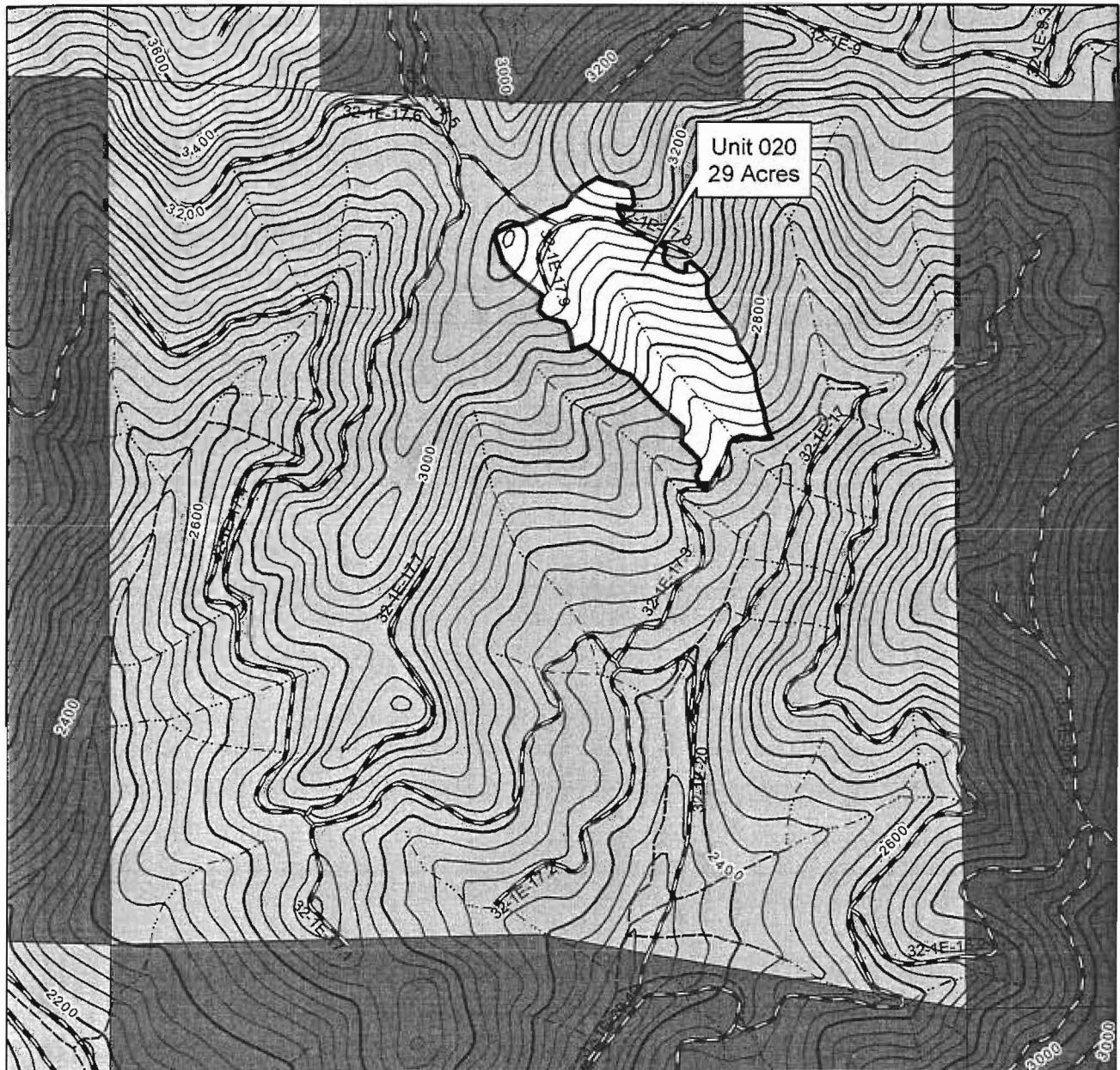


FOI Key	Bid Item	Unit #	Acres	Treatment
162245		018	20	Tree Planting
161882		9-5A	45	Tree Planting
		Total	65	

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October 2007



Map Page # 1



Treatment Area
 Perennial Stream
 Intermediate 40-ft contour
 BLM Administered
 Road
 Intermittent Stream
 Index 200-ft contour
 Non-BLM Land

0 500 1,000 1,500 2,000
Feet

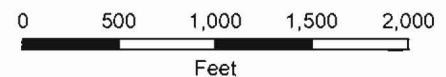
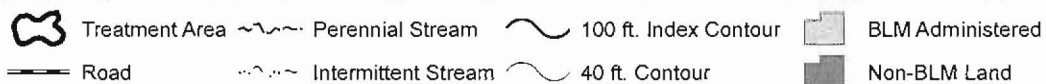
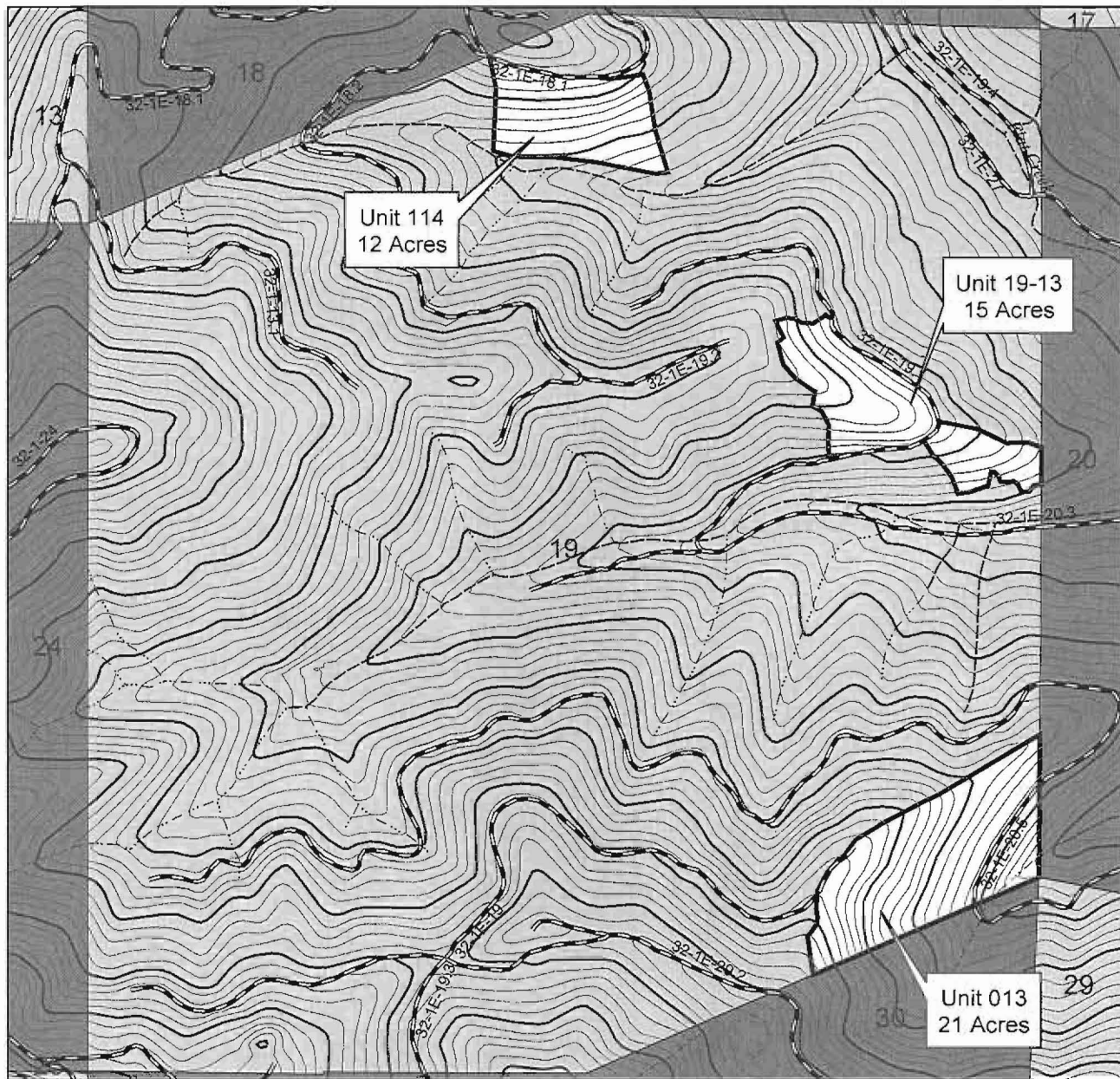
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FOI Key	Bid Item	Unit #	Acres	Treatment
162558		020	29	Tree Planting

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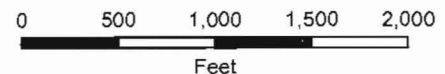
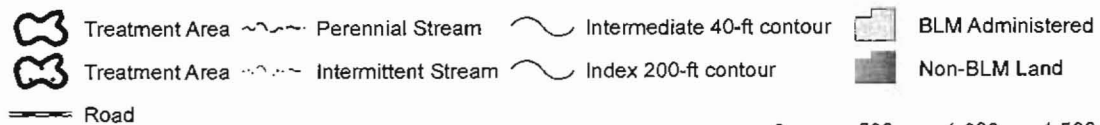
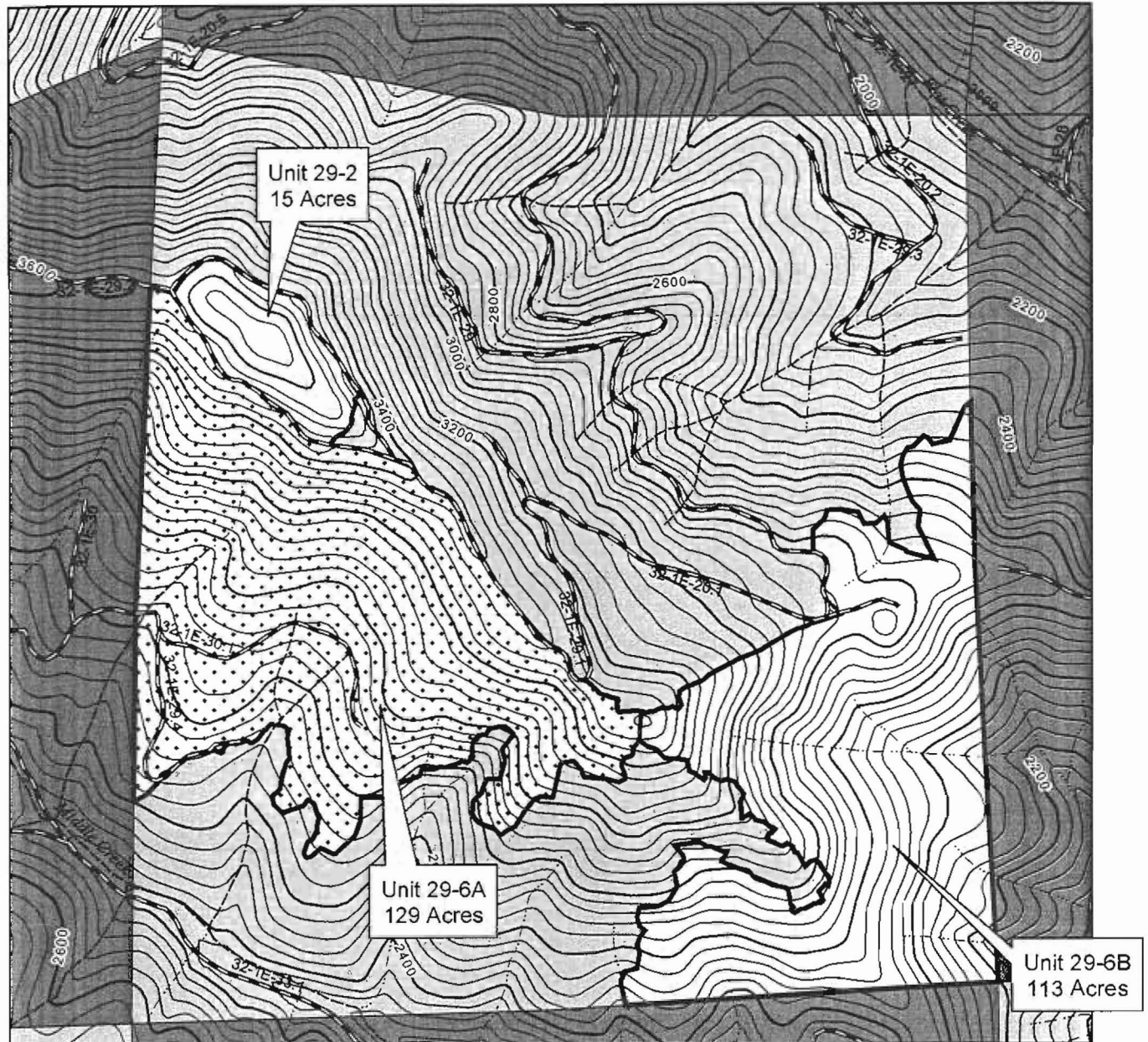


FOI Key	Bid Item	Unit #	Acres	Treatment
165042		19-13	15	Tree Planting
162570		013	21	Tree Planting
164176		114	12	Tree Planting
		Total	48	

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map page #3



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FOI Key	Bid Item	Unit #	Acres	Treatment
163808		29-2	15	Tree Planting
160364		29-6A	129	Tree Planting
160366		29-6B	113	Tree Planting
		Total	257	

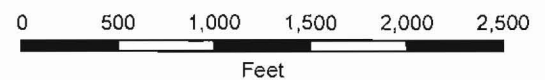
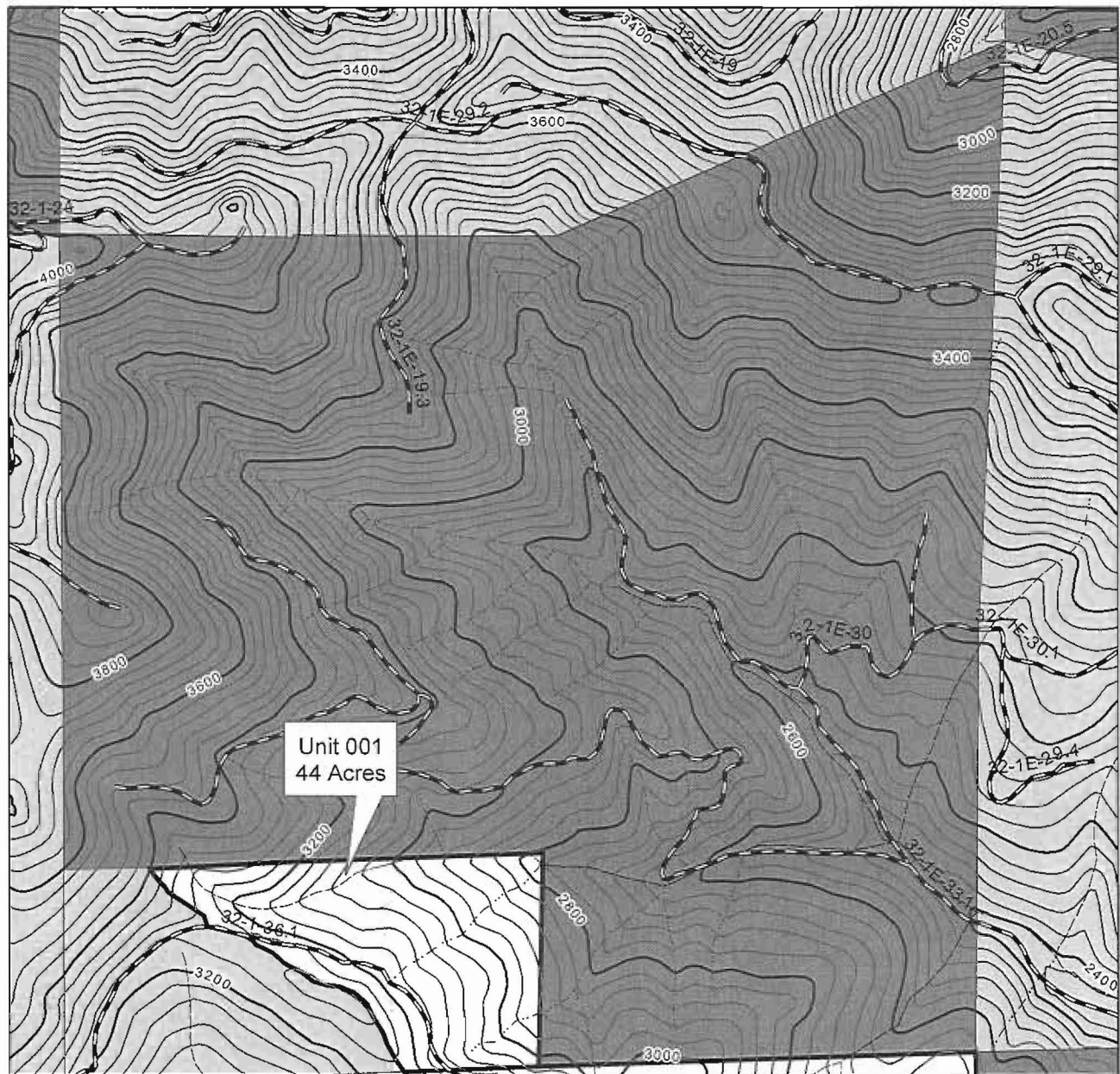
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Map Page # 4

Timbered Rock Fire

T32S R1E Sec 30



FOI Key #	Unit #	Acres	Treatment
162283	001	44	Replant
	Total	44	

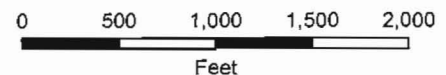
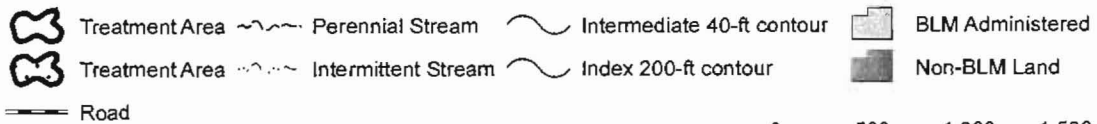
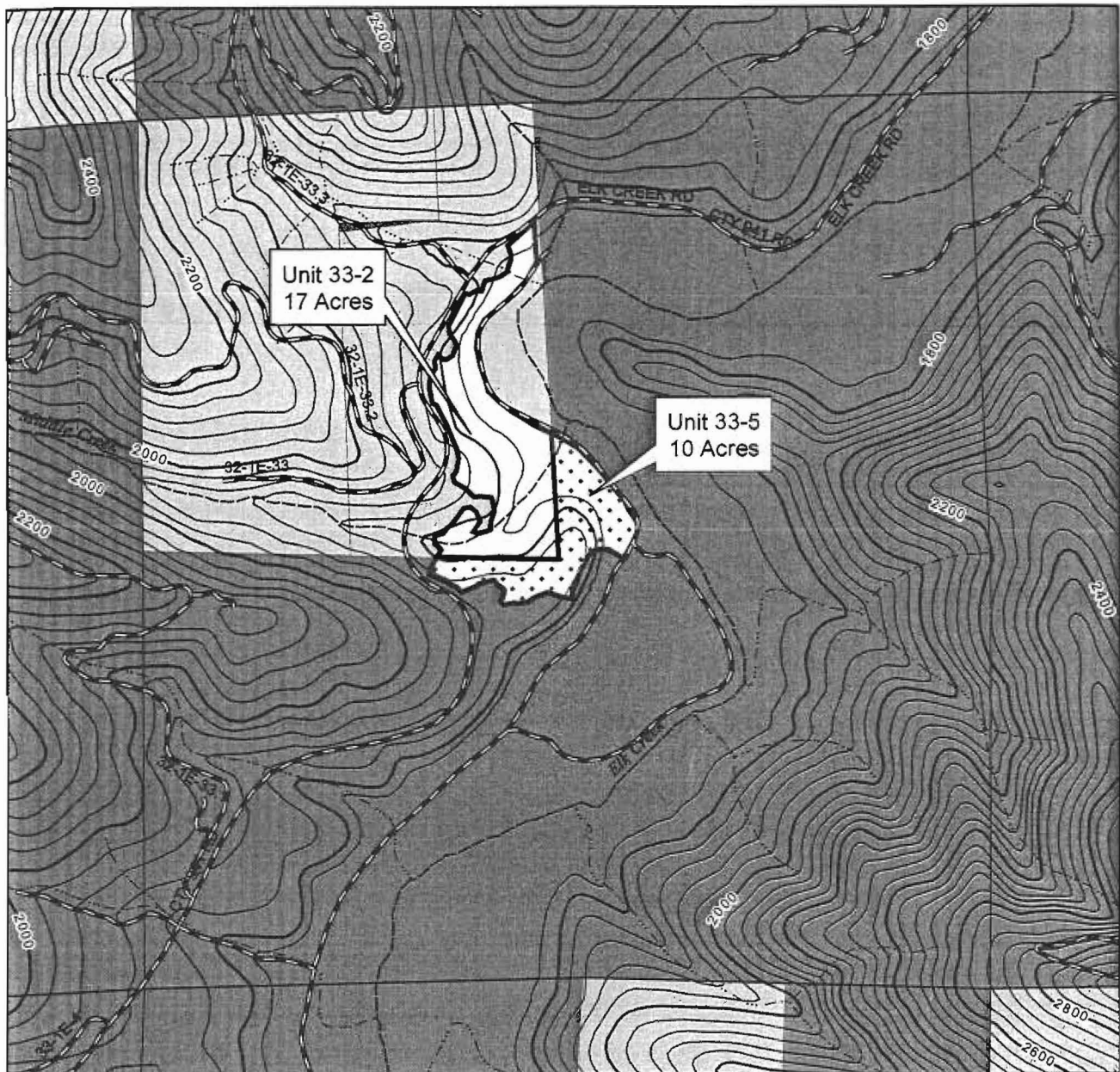
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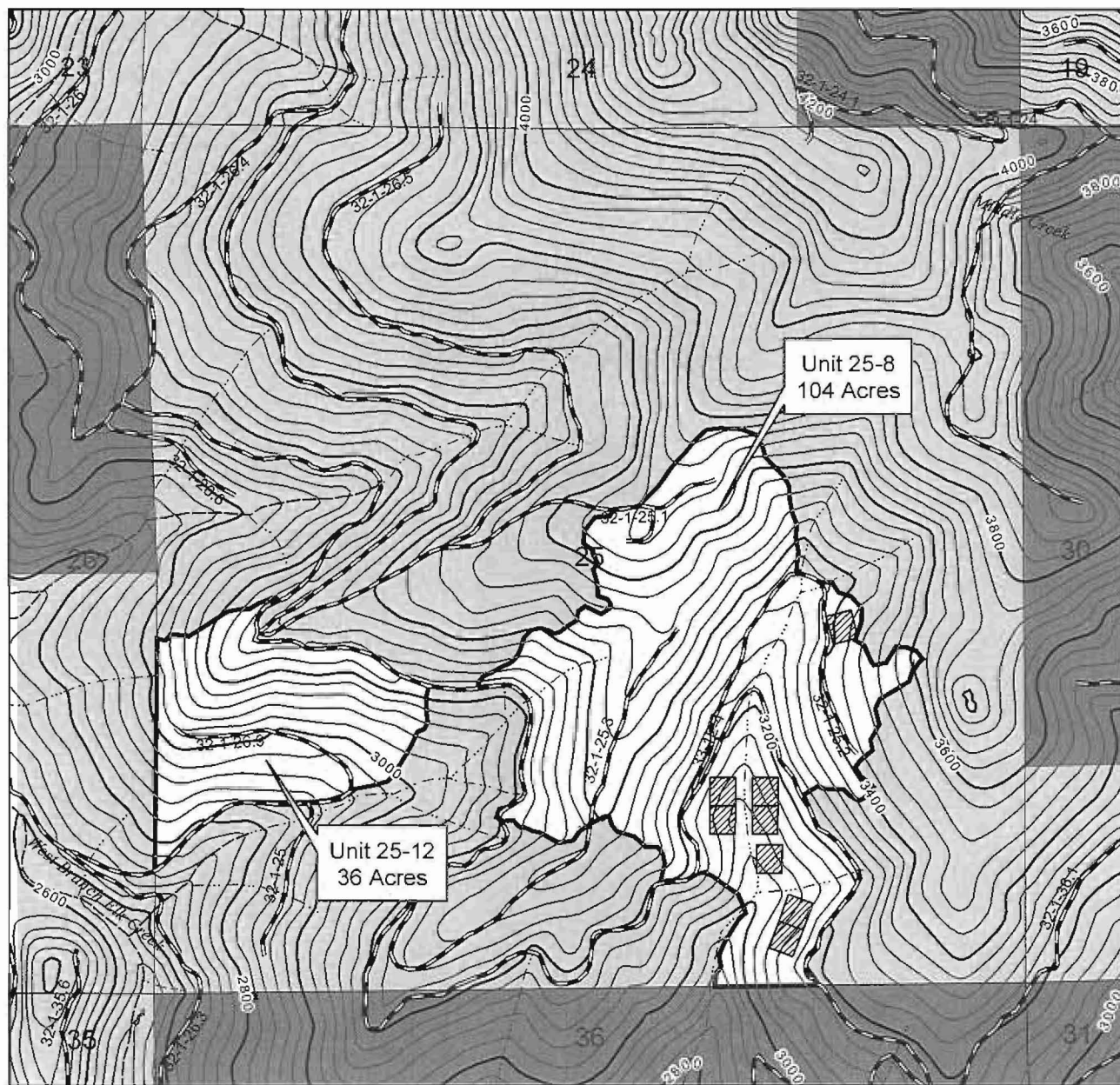


FOI Key	Bid Item	Unit #	Acres	Treatment
160379	1-0	33-2	17	Tree Planting
160379	1-0	33-5	10	Tree Planting
			27	

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Map Page #6



Treatment Area
 Perennial Stream
 Intermediate 40-ft contour
 Road
 BLM Administered
 Research Plot
 Intermittent Stream
 Index 200-ft contour
 Non-BLM Land

0 500 1,000 1,500 2,000
Feet

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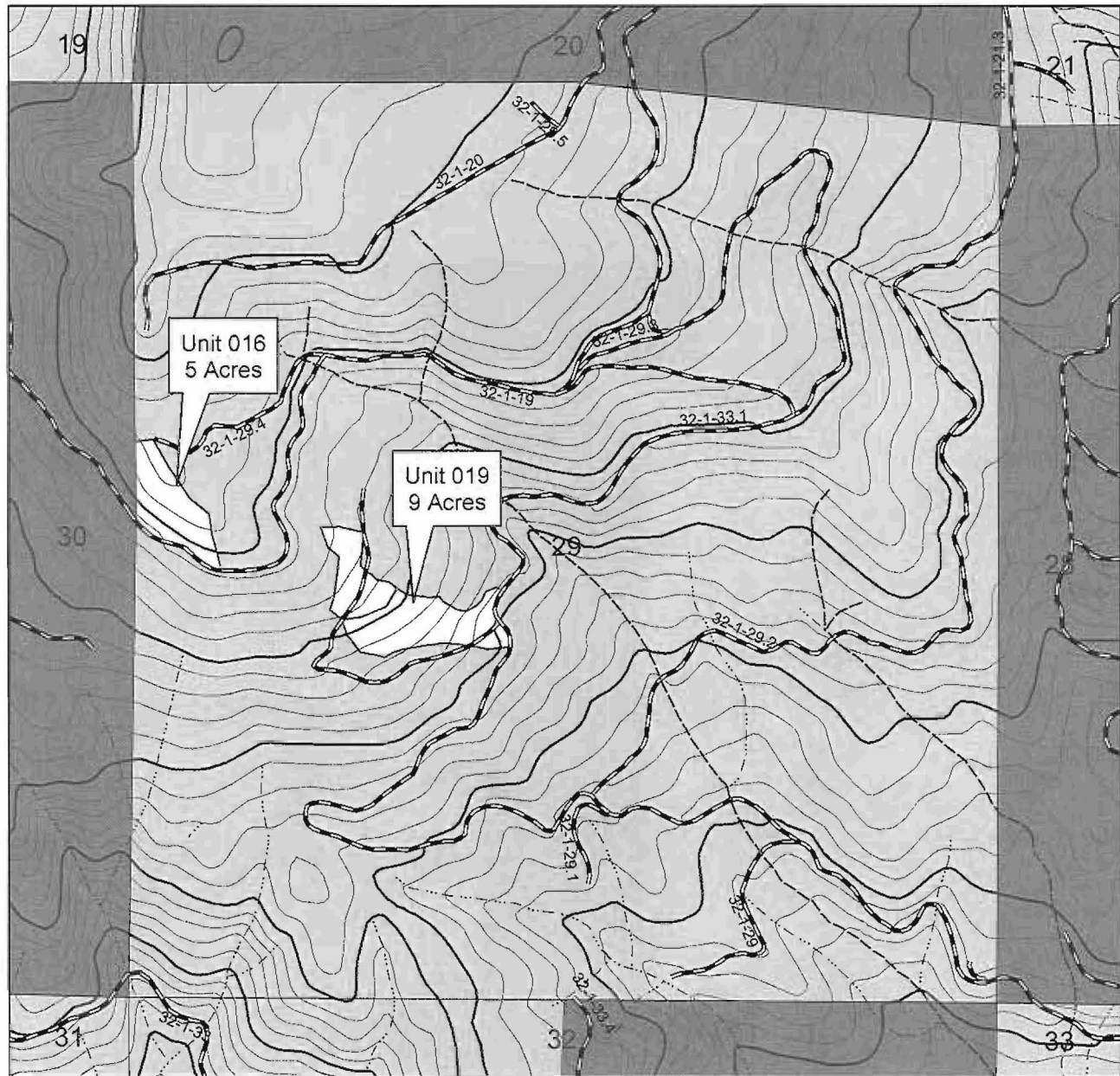


FOI Key	Bid Item	Unit #	Acres	Treatment
161726		25-8	104	Tree Planting
161724		25-12	36	Tree Planting
		Total	140	

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Map Page 7



Road
 Perennial Stream
 100 ft. Index Contour
 BLM Administered
 Non-BLM Land

BF_FOI_1_2008
 Intermittent Stream
 40 ft. Contour

0 500 1,000 1,500 2,000 2,500

Feet

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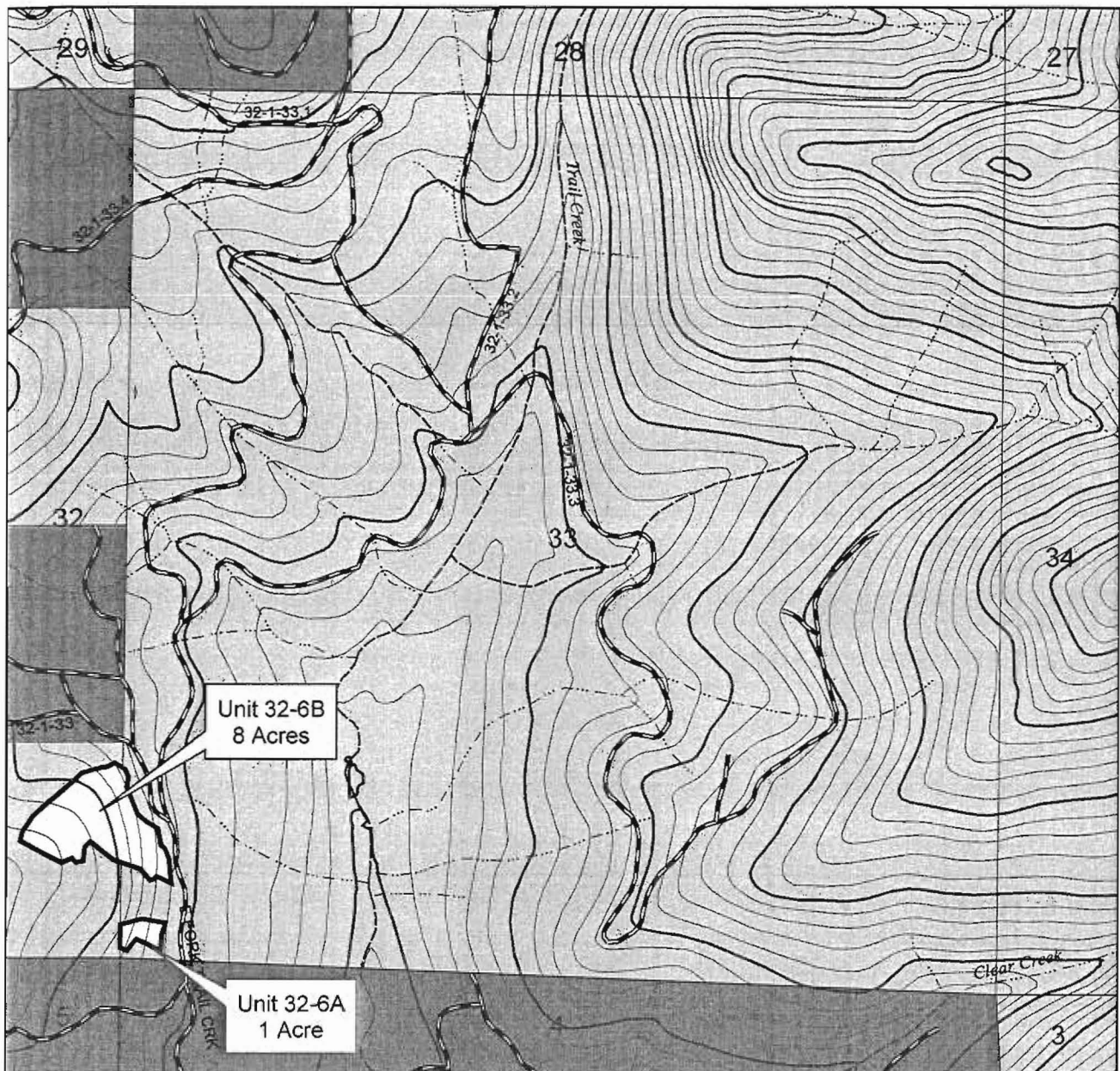


FOI Key	Bid Item	Unit #	Acres	Treatment
165489	4A	016	5	Initial Plant
165492	4A	019	9	Initial Plant
Total			14	

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Map Page # 8



Treatment Area
 Perennial Stream
 100 ft. Index Contour
 BLM Administered
 Road
 Intermittent Stream
 40 ft. Contour
 Non-BLM Land

0 500 1,000 1,500 2,000
Feet

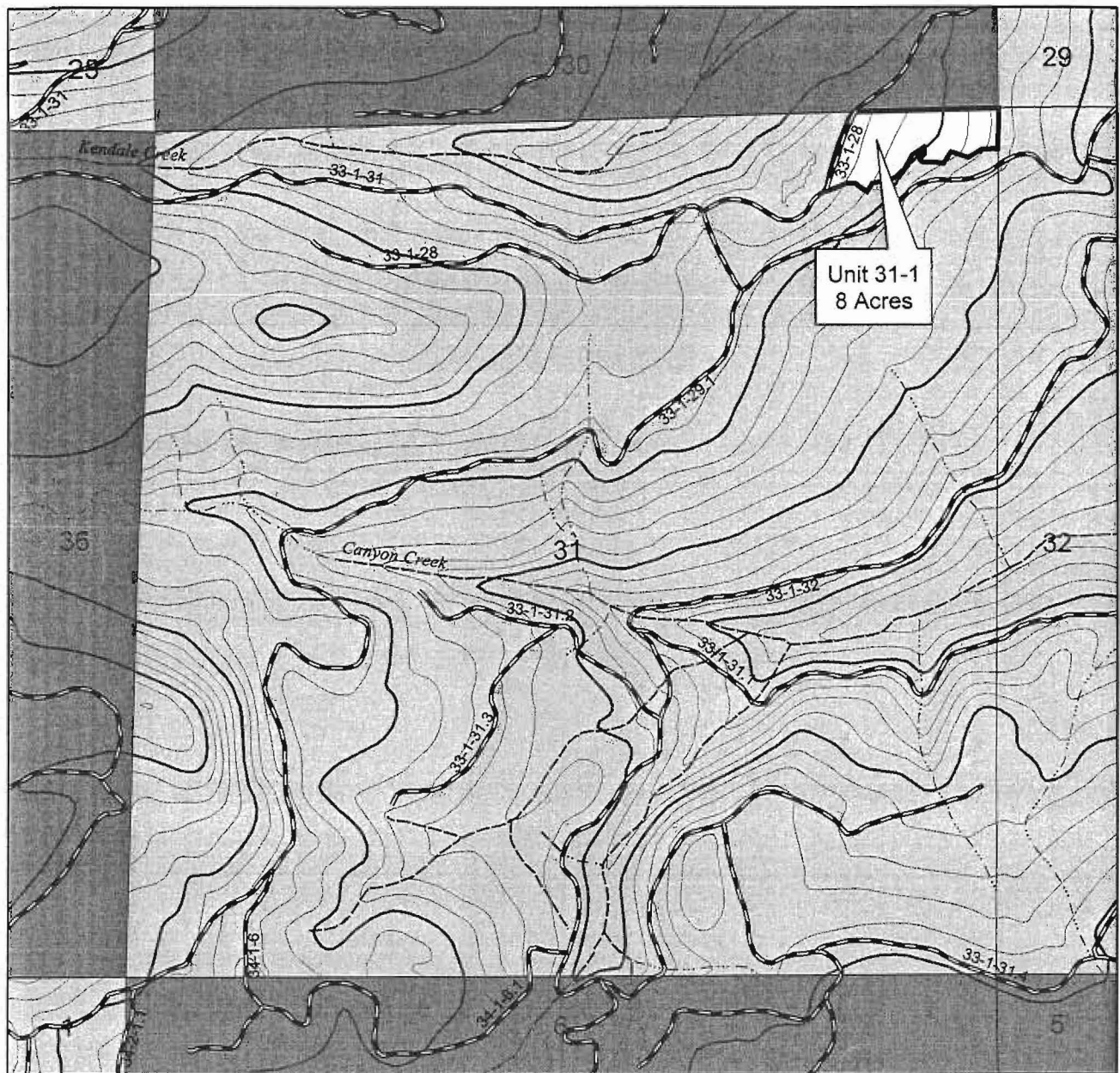
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FOI Key	Bid Item	Unit #	Acres	Treatment
160175		32-6A	1	Tree Planting
165476		32-6B	8	Tree Planting
		Total	9	

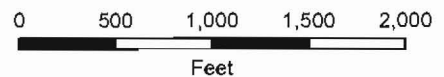
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Map Page # 9



Unit 31-1
8 Acres

 Treatment Area
  Perennial Stream
  100 ft. Index Contour
  BLM Administered
 Road
  Intermittent Stream
  40 ft. Contour
  Non-BLM Land



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FOI Key	Bid Item	Unit #	Acres	Treatment
165435		31-1	8	Tree Planting

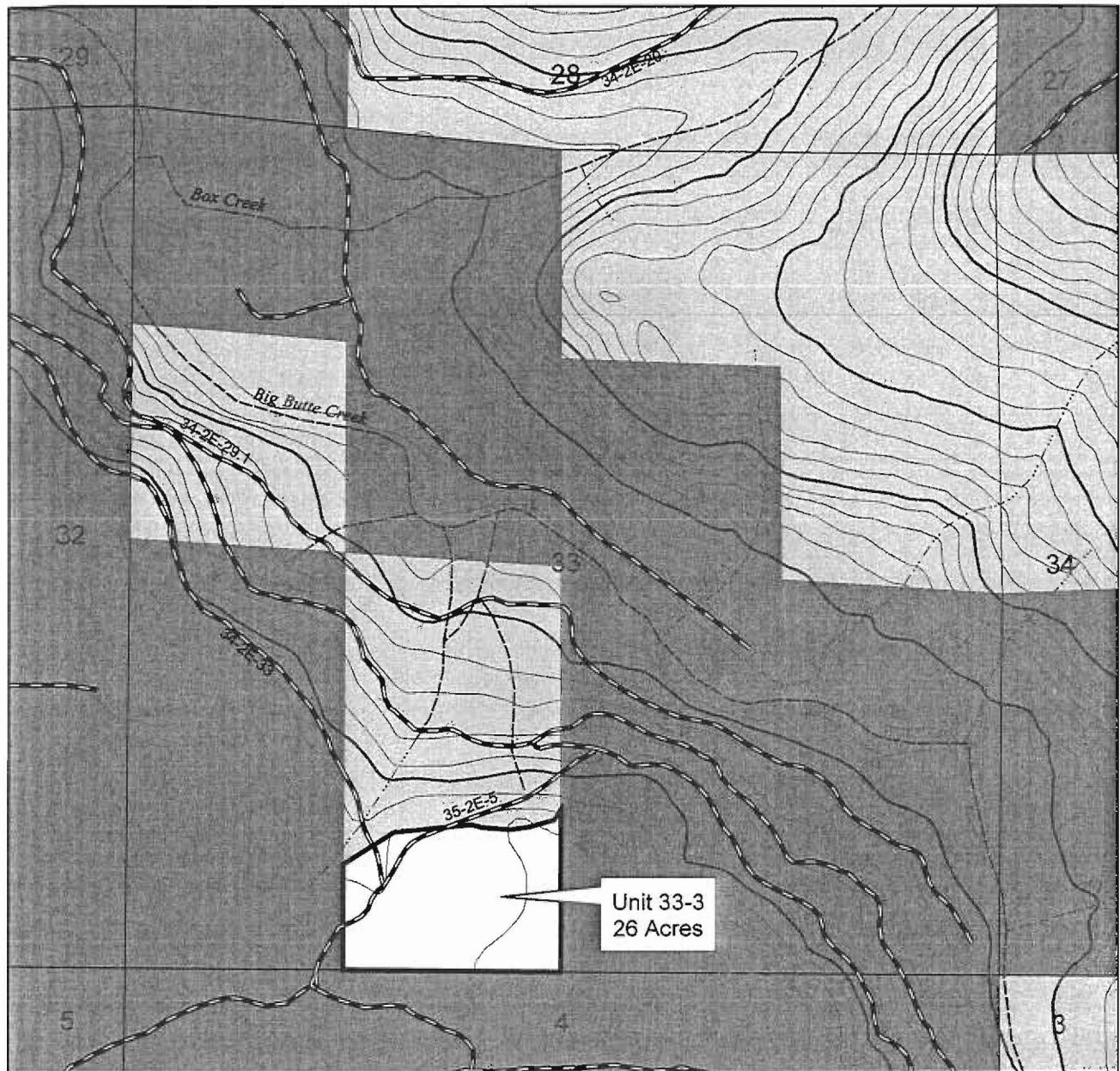


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Map Page #10

Lower Big Butte

T34S R2E Sec 33



Treatment Area
 Perennial Stream
 100 ft. Index Contour
 BLM Administered
 Road
 Intermittent Stream
 40 ft. Contour
 Non-BLM Land

0 500 1,000 1,500 2,000
Feet

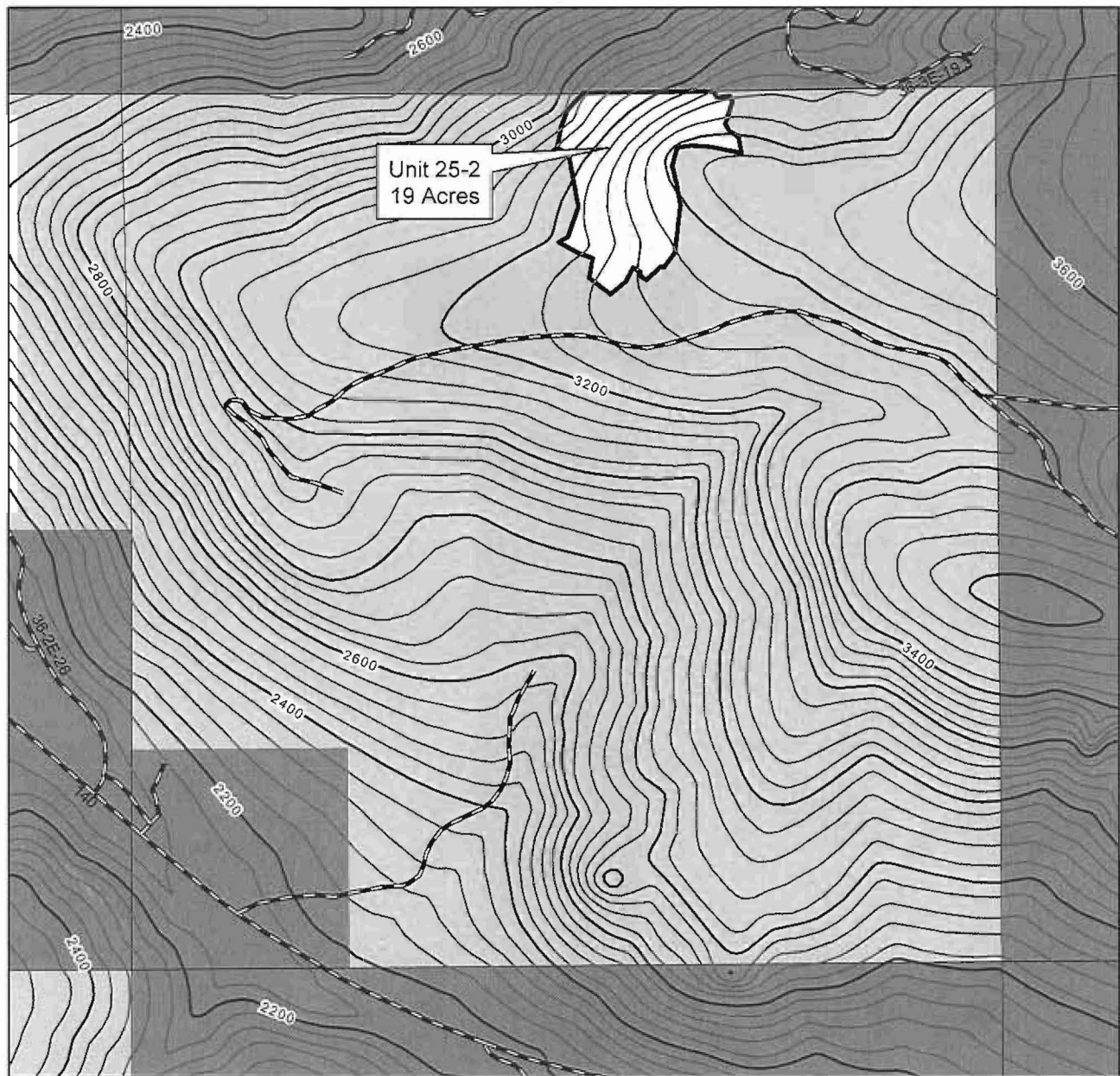
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FOI Key	Bid Item	Unit #	Acres	Treatment
165434		33-3	26	Tree Planting per 1000

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- Treatment Area
 Perennial Stream
 Intermediate 40-ft contour
 BLM Administered
 Road
 Intermittent Stream
 Index 200-ft contour
 Non-BLM Land

0 500 1,000 1,500 2,000
Feet

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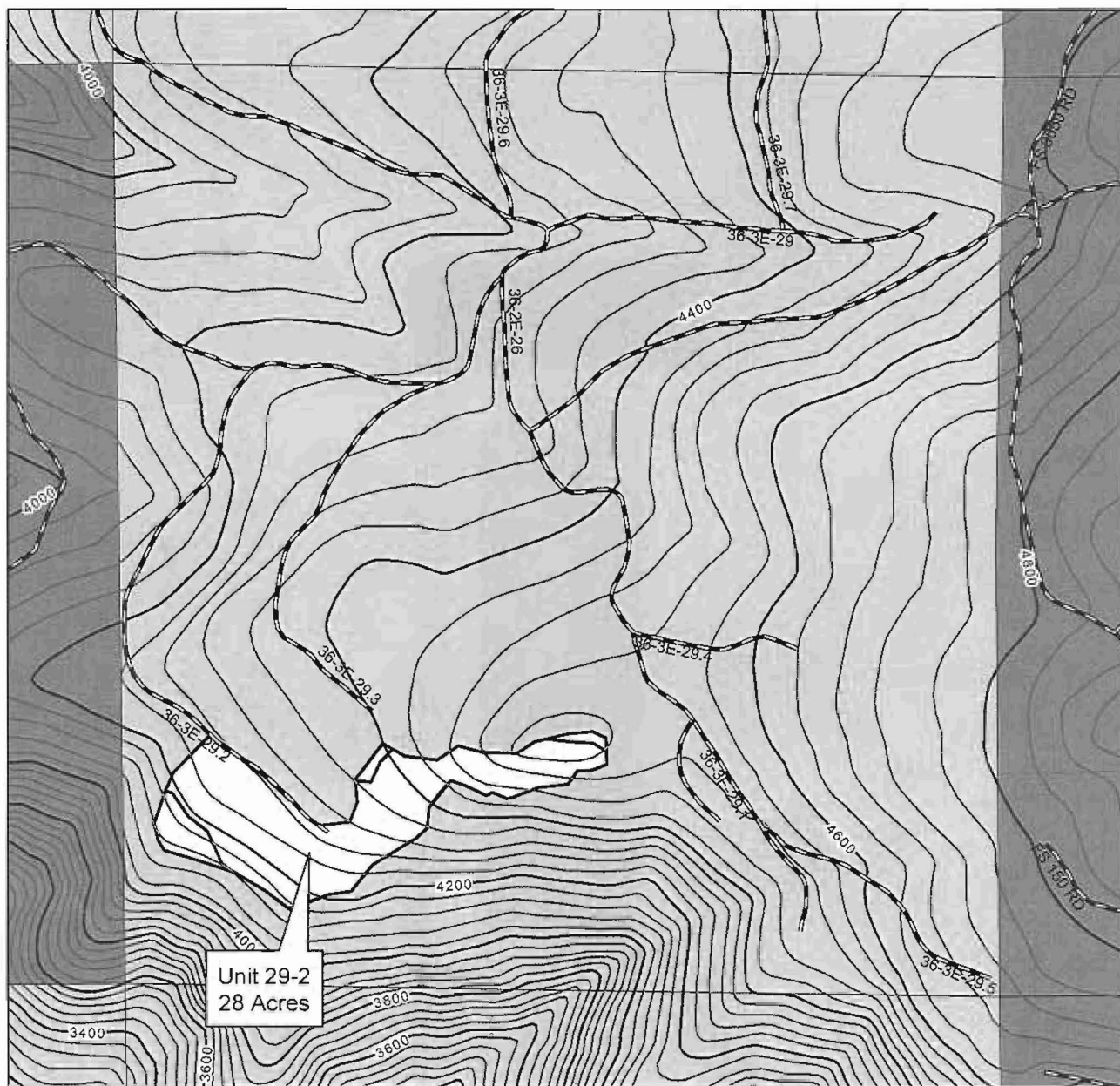
FOI Key #	Unit #	Acres	Treatment
165493	25-2	19	Replant



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- Treatment Area
 Perennial Stream
 Intermediate 40-ft contour
 BLM Administered
 Road
 Intermittent Stream
 Index 200-ft contour
 Non-BLM Land

0 500 1,000 1,500 2,000
Feet

1:12,000



FOI Key #	Unit #	Acres	Treatment
165074	29-2	28	Replant
	Total	28	

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